Legal
Services
Society

British Columbia
www.lss.bc.ca

News Release

October 3, 2008

Prince George lawyers' achievements recognized

Vancouver, BC – The Legal Services Society presented awards on October 2 to Prince George lawyers Don Kennedy, QC and Susie Kirstan for their work on behalf of legal aid clients in BC.

"These lawyers have combined their finely honed legal skills with their commitment to justice to help low-income people resolve their legal problems," said the society's Executive Director Mark Benton, QC. "Their dedication is a cornerstone of legal aid, and the society is pleased to show its appreciation for their contributions. The services they provide are representative of the legal aid work done by hundreds of lawyers across BC."

Don Kennedy, QC was called to the Bar in 1963 and has been practising in Prince George ever since. He has worked as both a prosecutor and as criminal defence counsel and has handled countless criminal legal aid referrals over the years. He is especially noted for his empathy for and understand of clients with special needs. Don has also served on the boards of several community agencies in Prince George.

Susie Kristan, practices family law exclusively. She regularly appears as duty counsel in both the Provincial Court and the Supreme Court providing legal advice to people with family problem. Susie says legal aid is important to her because, as the child of immigrants who arrived in Canada unable to read or speak English, she knows how frustrating and confusing the legal system can be.

Criteria used to select lawyers for the legal aid recognition awards include their willingness to take on difficult cases, their years and quality of legal aid service, and their community service. The awards are supported by funding from the Law Foundation of BC.

Brad Daisley
Manager, Communications
Legal Services Society
Vancouver
(604) 601-6001
(604) 828-0878 (cell)

LSS is an independent, non-profit organization that has provided legal aid to people with low incomes in BC since 1979.

Legal representation is available for serious family issues (e.g., involving child apprehension matters or domestic violence) and serious criminal problems. It is also available for some immigration, mental health law, and prison law matters.

Legal advice is available at most courts through duty counsel and by telephone through LawLINE and the Brydges Line (both are province-wide toll-free lines).

Legal information is available through LawLINE, plain language publications, and Internet services, including the Electronic Law Library, the Family Law in British Columbia, the LSS, and the LawLINK websites. (See www.lss.bc.ca for most of our publications, our catalogue, and website links.)

*To contact the **LSS Call Centre and LawLINE**, dial: (604) 408-2172 (Lower Mainland) or 1-866-577-2525 (toll free from outside the Lower Mainland).*